



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

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*****PUBLICATION ADVISORY*****

BJS RELEASES *CRIMINAL APPEALS IN STATE COURTS*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released *Criminal Appeals in State Courts*, which describes the characteristics of criminal appeals resolved in state appellate courts in 2010. The report provides information on variations from state to state in court structures for handling criminal appeals. It includes estimates of the number of criminal appeals resolved in state courts in 2010, by type of case, whether the state or the defendant petitioned the court, severity of the offense, level of appellate court (intermediate or last resort), and final outcomes. It tracks reversal rates for the top ten issues commonly addressed on appeal and reversal rates by the most serious offense in the underlying trial case.

The report examines variations in case processing times by type of court, court structure, and whether or not the court reviewed the case on its merits. It also compares death penalty appeals with other appeals cases on these factors. Findings are based on data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ 2010 Survey of State Court Criminal Appeals, in which a sample of appeals were selected from the 143 state appellate courts with criminal jurisdiction.

TITLE: *Criminal Appeals in State Courts* (NCJ 248874)

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WHERE: <http://www.bjs.gov>

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The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), headed by Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason, provides federal leadership in developing the nation’s capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist victims. OJP has six components: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. More information about OJP can be found at <http://www.ojp.gov>.